

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 04221 312100Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 AID-05 DLOS-09 OES-07 EB-08 HA-05 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /116 W

-----027530 010935Z /11

R 312015Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 980

C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 4221

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS, EGEN, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN ATTITUDES AT OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: (A) STATE 103851, (B) STATE 123344

1. ACCORDING TO FOREIGN MINISTRY SUB-SECRETARY FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS JAVIER MURILLO, BOLIVIA WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE "INFORMAL DIALOGUE" PHASE OF THE UPCOMING OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO CALL ATTENTION TO ITS LANDLOCKED STATUS (AS IT DID AT THE UN SSOD) AND SEEK SUPPORT FOR A SOVERIGN CORRIDOR TO THE SEA THROUGH CHILE.

2. ON AOS RESTRUCTURING, MURILLO SAID BOLIVIA WOULD NOT OBJECT IN PRINCIPLE TO A REDUCTION IN THE US FINANCIAL QUOTA, BUT WOULD HAVE TO STUDY CLOSELY THE OVERALL EFFECT OF THE PROPOSED DECREASE. HE ADDED HIS PERSONAL VIEW THAT THE OAS WAS INEFFICIENTLY OPERATED AND THAT EXPENSES COULD BE DRASTICALLY REDUCED ACROSS THE BOARD. MURILLO SAID THAT BOLIVIA'S CHIEF INTEREST IN RESTRUCTURING WAS TO BRING THE RIO TREATY IN LINE WITH THE BOGOTA PACT - I.E., EMPHASIZE THE "PLURALISTIC" POSSIBILITIES OF THE OAS (THUS ALLOWING CUBA'S ENTRY), RATHER THAN THE REQUIREMENT THAT EACH MEMBER STATE DISPLAY A COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES.

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3. WHILE MURILLO WAS SILENT ON ECONOMIC ISSUES, WE THINK IT LIKELY THAT BOLIVIA WILL REITERATE THE VIEW THAT THE SALE OF THE GSA TIN STOCKS CONSTITUTE A THREAT TO BOLIVIA AND AN ANOMALY IN THE US HUMAN RIGHTS POLICY. WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THIS POSSIBLE TACK, HOWEVER, BOLIVIA'S APPROACH TO HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WILL PROBABLY

CONTINUE TO BE CALCULATED NOT TO ALIENATE BENEFACTORS LIKE THE
US AND VENEZUELA NOR TO OFFEND NEIGHBORS LIKE PARAGUAY, URUGUAY
AND CHILE.
BOEKER

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